

A LODE FOR LOGASTELLI

ERIC ALBERT
Medford, Massachusetts

From Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary: logastellus, n. "a person whose enthusiasm for words outstrips his knowledge of them" (John McClellan in Word Ways, August 1970)

Many readers of these pages are familiar with Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary, a delightful collection of "unusual, obscure, and preposterous words." The above definition shows that Mrs. Byrne recognized a felicitous *Word Ways* contribution when she came across it. I would like to now return the favor by giving here a portion of my personal list of evocative, illuminating, and just downright bizarre words.

The list has been culled from a collection of primary and secondary reference works. In tagging the definition sources, I have used the following scheme:

no tag	Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition
BYRN	Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary, by Josefa Heifetz Byrne
CENT	The Century Dictionary and Encyclopedia
CHAM	Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary
GAY	Gay Talk, by Bruce Rodgers
GRAN	The Grandiloquent Dictionary, by Russel Locke
LECH	Lecher's Lexicon, by J. E. Schmidt
NI3	Webster's Third New International Dictionary
OED	The Oxford English Dictionary
POP	Poplollies and Bellibones, by Susan Kelz Sperling
SLAN	The Slang Thesaurus, by Jonathon Green
WORD	Words, by Paul Dickson

When an essentially identical definition appears in two or more of the above works, I have picked the tag according to my idiosyncratic order of dictionary preference, which is Webster's Second, Oxford, Century, Webster's Third, Chambers, and everything else. Thus, a definition with the tag OED might also appear in the Century Dictionary or Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary, but it is unlikely to appear in Webster's Second Unabridged. The tags are solely for the convenience of the reader; they do not specify how I originally learned the words.

I hereby gratefully acknowledge the compilers of the above-listed works, the contributors to *Word Ways*, the members of the National Puzzlers' League, Alan Frank, Susan Assman, L, Mary Hazard, and everyone I've temporarily forgotten who over the years has suggested a word for this list. Additions to the list are solicited; please send your contributions to the editor.

- ABLEWHACKETS, n. A sailor's game in which the loser's palms are beaten with a twisted handkerchief.
- ACCIPITER, n. A bandage worn around the nose.
- ACERSECOMIC, n. One whose hair has never been cut (OED).
- ACERVOSE, adj. Full of heaps.
- ACHILLIZE, v.t. & i. To act or treat a person in the manner of Achilles.
- ACHYLS, n. Goddess of obscurity (LECH).
- ACKMAN, n. A fresh-water thief; one who steals on navigable rivers (CENT).
- ADELASTER, n. A proposed name for such plants as come into cultivation before they are sufficiently well-known to be referred to their true genera (CENT).
- AGATHISM, n. The doctrine that all things tend toward ultimate good, though perhaps not always along the best road.
- AGELAST, n. One who never laughs (OED).
- AGLET, n. The metal sheath at the end of a shoe or sneaker lace.
- AGROOF, adj. Flat on one's face.
- AILUROPHILE, n. One who loves cats (NI3).
- ALKAHEST, n. The fabled "universal solvent" of the alchemists; a substance capable of dissolving all things.
- ALLIACEOUS, adj. Having the smell of garlic or onions.
- ALTOCALCIPHILIA, n. Excitement caused by a woman wearing high heels (LECH).
- AMARANTH, n. An imaginary flower supposed never to fade.
- AMMUT, n. In Egyptian mythology, a creature, part lioness, part hippopotamus, which appears in judgement scenes as the devourer of the dead.
- AMPHORIC, adj. Having a hollow sound similar to that produced by blowing across the mouth of an empty bottle.
- AMPLEXUS, n. The sexual embrace of the male toad.
- ANANISAPTA, n. A word that when written on parchment and worn on the body protects one from disease (WORD).
- ANAPHALANTIASIS, n. The falling out of the eyebrows.
- ANEMOCRACY, n. Government by the wind (CENT).
- ANFRACTUOUS, adj. Full of windings and especially intricate turnings. The Mississippi is an anfractuous river.
- ANISOMASTIC, adj. Having breasts of unequal size (LECH).
- ANTEJENTACULAR, adj. Before breakfast.
- ANTE-NATI, n. pl. Those born in the colonies prior to the Declaration of Independence.
- ANTEPHIALTIC, adj. & n. Preventive of nightmares.
- APE'S PATERNOSTER, n. A chattering with the teeth.
- APRICATE, v.t. & i. To bask in or expose to the sun.
- AQUILON, n. The north-north-east wind (OED).
- ARCHILOWE, n. The return which one who has been treated in an inn sometimes considers himself bound in honor to make to the company.
- ARENATION, n. Therapeutic application of sand to the body.
- ASCIAN, n. One who has no shadow.
- ASCOB, n. A cocker spaniel of Any Solid Color Other than Black (BYRN).
- ATLUK, n. A seal's breathing hole in the ice (BYRN).

- ATTUS, n. A surname for persons who walk on the tips of their shoes (mentioned in the derivation of "Attidae").
- AVENAGE, n. Oats paid by a tenant to a landlord in lieu of rent.
- AVERING, n. A boy's begging in the nude to arouse sympathy (BYRN).
- AVAL, adj. Of or pertaining to a grandparent or grandparents.
- AXIOPISTY, n. The quality which makes something believable (BYRN).
- BALNEARII, n. pl. Those who stole clothes in the Roman public baths (BYRN).
- BANDOLINE, n. A hairdressing made from boiled quince pips (BYRN).
- BASTINADO, n. A form of torture where the victim is beaten on the soles of the feet with a stick or rod.
- BEDSWERVER, n. One unfaithful to the marriage vow.
- BELCHER, n. A blue neckerchief having large white spots with dark blue spots at their centers.
- BELLIBONE, n. A lovely maiden.
- BELLYTIMBER, n. Food, provisions (OED).
- BENEDICT, n. A recent bridegroom who was previously a confirmed bachelor.
- BESICLOMETER, n. An instrument for measuring the forehead for eyeglasses.
- BICORNE, n. A two-horned monster in old French satirical poetry who grows fat by eating patient husbands.
- BISSEXTUS, n. Leap day; that is, February 29th (OED).
- BLYPE, n. A piece of skin that peels off after a sunburn (WORD).
- BOGSAAT, n. Acronym applied to the preferred technique of high-level decision making in America. It stands for a Bunch of Guys Sitting Around A Table (WORD).
- BORT, n. The fragments left over from cutting a diamond.
- BOTTU, n. In India, an ornamental or sectarian mark, such as a dot upon the forehead.
- BOUSTROPHEDON, adj. Having alternate lines written in opposite directions (as from left to right and from right to left).
- BRACHIATE, v.i. To progress by swing from one hold to another by the arms, as the gibbon does.
- BREEDBATE, n. One who stirs up quarrels.
- BROTUS, n. Any extra measure without charge, such as a baker's dozen (BYRN).
- BRUXISM, n. The habit of unconsciously gritting or grinding one's teeth, especially in situations of stress or during sleep (N13).
- BUFFLE, v.i. To rapidly tickle the stomach of a lover with one's moustache while mumbling "Buffle, buffle, buffle" (GAY).
- BULSE, n. A package of diamonds or gold dust.
- BUMF, n. British slang term for paperwork. It is a shortening of "bum fodder" (N13).
- BUNNIKIN, n. An early spring flower (OED).
- BURGHBOTE, n. A contribution for building or repairing castles.
- BWBACHOD, n. A Welsh brownie who will work free for anyone except teetotalers (WORD).
- CALLIPYGIAN, adj. Pertaining to or having shapely buttocks.
- CANEPHOROS, n. A female or male sculptured figure bearing a basket on the head.
- CAPNOPNEA, n. A mild and pleasurable sexual excitation experienced

- by some men upon breathing the air of a room scented with the cigarette smoke of a beautiful woman (LECH).
- CARFAX, n. A place where four roads meet.
- CARRIWITCHET, n. An absurd question intended to be facetious; also, a play on words.
- CARYATID, n. A supporting column in the form of a sculptured female figure.
- CASTROPHRENIA, n. The belief that one's thoughts are being stolen by enemies (BYRN).
- CATAGLOTTISM, n. A tongue kiss; a "French kiss" (WORD).
- CELATION, n. Concealment of pregnancy or childbirth.
- CENOTAPH, n. A tombstone erected in honor of a person buried somewhere else at some other time.
- CHAMADE, n. The drum beat or trumpet blast which announces a truce.
- CHARETTE, n. The hasty completion of architectural designs or other work deliverable at a certain time.
- CHARIVARI, n. A noisy mock serenade to a newly married couple who are expected to furnish refreshments to silence the serenaders.
- CHIASMUS, n. The inversion of the order of syntactical elements of two parallel phrases such as "Chess is the king of games and the game of kings."
- CHICHEVACHE, n. A medieval monster said to feed only on patient wives (the chichevache was notoriously thin).
- CHILIOMB, n. A sacrifice of a thousand oxen.
- CHIMINAGE, n. A toll for passage through a forest.
- CHRISOM, n. A child that dies during its first month.
- CHRONON, n. One billionth of a trillionth of a second (WORD).
- CHTHONIC, adj. Dwelling or reigning in the underworld; infernal (OED).
- CLEDONISM, n. The avoidance of unlucky words by using euphemisms; for example, counting "Twelve, twelve plus one, fourteen.."
- CLISHMACLAVER, n. Gossip.
- CNICIN, n. The crystalline bitter principle of the blessed thistle.
- COQUECIGRUE, n. An imaginary creature regarded as an embodiment of absolute absurdity (N13).
- COLOSTRUM, n. The first milk secreted by a woman after she gives birth to a child.
- COMATULID, adj. Having hair that is neatly curled.
- COMPRACHIO, n. One who buys and sells children after first deforming them.
- CORDAX, n. A chorus dance of an indecent kind.
- CORSNED, n. In Old English law, a one-ounce piece of bread, consecrated by exorcism, which an accused person was required to swallow as a trial of the person's guilt or innocence (OED).
- CORYBANTISM, n. A frenzied, sleepless delirium accompanied by wild and frightening hallucinations.
- COUVADE, n. The custom in which, when a child is born, the father takes to his bed as if he himself had suffered the pains of childbirth.
- CRAPULOUS, adj. Sick from excessive indulgence in liquor.
- CRAPWA, n. The highest part of the wall of a room.

- CREPITACULUM, n. The rattle of the rattlesnake.
- CREPUSCULAR, adj. Of or like the twilight.
- DEACON, v.t. To pack fruit or vegetables with the finest specimens on top.
- DEFENESTRATION, n. The act of throwing a person or thing out of a window.
- DEHORNER, n. Legal term for a rubbing-alcohol addict (BYRN).
- DEIPNOSOPHIST, n. One adept at dinner conversation.
- DHARNA, n. In India, a way of collecting debts by sitting on the debtor's doorstep until the money is paid or the collector has starved to death.
- DIAPNOLAGNIA, n. A form of excitation wherein lust is aroused by another person blowing in one's ear (LECH).
- DISCALCEATE, v.t. & i. To pull off the shoes or sandals of someone; to remove one's shoes.
- DISOMUS, n. A two-bodied, one-headed monster.
- DOPPELGANGER, n. A ghostly double of a live person that haunts the person through life and is usually only visible to the person.
- DRACONITES, n. A fabulous jewel from the brain of a dragon.
- DREGS OF WINE, n. A color, yellowish-red in hue, of low saturation and very low brilliance.
- DZO, n. A kind of domestic cattle reared in Asia. It is a hybrid between the zebu and the yak.
- ECCHYMOSES, n. A black-and-blue spot.
- ECDYSIAST, n. One who rhythmically disrobes; a stripteaser (NI3).
- ELYTOSTOMIA, n. The popular but erroneous belief that the size of a woman's vagina can be estimated from the size of her mouth (LECH).
- EPISPASTIC, adj. Causing a blister.
- ERIC, n. In old Irish law, a blood fine: payment to the family of the victim by the murderer.
- ERIFF, n. A two-year-old canary (OED).
- ERRHINE, adj. A medicine to be put into the nose to produce sneezing.
- ESTIVATE, v.i. To spend the summer in a state of torpor (analogous to "hibernate").
- EUPHUISTIC, adj. Displaying excessive elegance of language; using high-flown and affected diction.
- FAMULUS, n. A magician's assistant.
- FAVONIAN, adj. Like the west wind; mild.
- FEAGUE, v.t. To put ginger up a horse's fundament to make him lively and carry his tail well (OED).
- FEFNICUTE, n. A hypocrite or sneak.
- FENKS, n. Refuse whale blubber. It is used as manure.
- FILIPENDULOUS, adj. Hanging by a thread.
- FLISKMAHOY, n. A flighty person.
- FLOCCINAUCINIHIPIPIIIFICATION, n. The action or habit of estimating a thing as worthless (the longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary)(OED).
- FORMICATION, n. The feeling that ants are crawling over one's skin.

- FRAIL, n. Fifty pounds of raisins.
- FROTTAGE, n. Masturbation by rubbing against another person, particularly in a crowded public place (N13).
- FUBSY, adj. Plump; chubby; short and stuffy.
- FUCIVOROUS, adj. Subsisting on seaweed.
- FUNGI¹BLE, adj. Easily replaced with other things. A pound of coffee is fungible, while a Monet is not.
- FURFURACEOUS, adj. Covered with dandruff.
- GENETHLIACON, n. A birthday poem.
- GHOOM, v.i. To hunt in the dark.
- GIDDHOM, n. A frantic galloping movement made by cows plagued with flies (BYRN).
- GILLYGALOO, n. A mythical bird that lays square eggs (BYRN).
- GLUTOBASIALION, n. The practice of kissing a person's buttocks as a manifestation of lust (LECH).
- GNOMON, n. The object on a sundial that casts the shadow.
- GOBE-MOUCHE, n. A gullible person; literally, one who swallows flies.
- GRANGERISM, n. Cutting out pictures and designs from the books of others in order to illustrate your own.
- GRIFFONAGE, n. Careless handwriting; illegible scribble.
- GRIMTHORPE, v.t. To do a rotten job of restoration (from Lord Grimthorpe, who tried to restore St. Alban's abbey).
- GROAK, v.i. To watch people silently while they are eating, hoping that they will ask you to join them (BYRN).
- GYASCUTUS, n. An imaginary huge four-legged beast with legs on one side longer than on the other, enabling it to walk around steep hillsides. Should it ever be trapped on a plain, it is doomed to wander in circles.
- GYNOPHAGITE, n. An eater of women.
- GYNOTIKOLOBOMASSOPHILE, n. One who likes to nibble on a woman's earlobe (BYRN).
- GYROMANCY, n. Fortunetelling by walking around in a circle until dizzy; the fortune is determined by where the person falls over.
- HAECCEITY, n. Thisness; the character of being here and now.
- HADEHARIA, n. Constant use of the word "hell" (BYRN).
- HALLUX, n. The big toe.
- HEELTAP, n. A small portion of liquid left in a glass after drinking.
- HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER, n. A sixty-fourth note in music.
- HIRCINOUS, adj. Smelling like a goat.
- HIRSUTO-RUFOUS, adj. Having red hair.
- HLONIPA, n. A prohibition against saying the name of a dead person (WORD).
- HOLMGANG, n. A duel fought on an island.
- HORRIPILATION, n. A bristling of the hair of the head or body, resulting from disease, terror, or chilliness; goose flesh.
- HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAA, n. A small tropical Hawaiian fish (N13).
- IGNIVOMOUS, adj. Vomiting fire.
- ILLTH, n. Ill-being or that which causes it; the opposite of wealth.
- IMBRICATION, n. An overlapping of the edges, like that of tiles

or shingles.

IMPERVESTIGABLE, adj. Incapable of being thoroughly investigated.

INFANDOUS, adj. Too odious to be mentioned.

INFINITESIMALISM, n. The doctrine that the more a drug is diluted, the more potent it becomes.

IOBLEPHAROUS, adj. Violet-lidded; describing the presence of coloring on the eyelids of a woman or statue (GRAN).

IRCHIN, n. A culinary dish with almonds bristling on top which resembles a hedgehog (OED).

IRROGATION, n. The custom of watering a plant with the discharge of a sick person to rid the person of the disease and give it to the plant (WORD).

JEFF, n. A printer's dice game that uses pieces of type metal.

JEOFAIL, n. A lawyer's mistake; his acknowledgement of it to the court.

KEEDUG, n. An old sack used as a raincoat (BYRN).

KENSPECKLE, adj. Having a distinctive appearance.

KERF, n. The groove cut by a saw or an ax in a tree to indicate where it is to be cut down.

KERMES, n. The dried bodies of the females of certain insects, formerly supposed to be berries.

KICKSEY-WINSEY, n. A fantastic device; a whim or erratic fancy.

KILFUD-YOKING, n. A fireside disputation (CHAM).

KITTLY-BENDERS, n. Thin bending ice; the act of running over such ice.

KNEIPPISM, n. Treatment of disease by walking barefoot on wet grass.

KOOMKIE, n. A trained female elephant used to decoy wild males.

KRASIS, n. Dilution of the Eucharist wine by adding water.

LABRET, n. A piece, as of wood, shell, or stone, worn in a perforation of the lip, as among various tribes.

LAGNIAPPE, n. A small gift given a customer by a merchant at the time of purchase; something given gratuitously or as a bonus (N13).

LALLATION, n. Imperfect enunciation of the letter "r" so that it sounds like an "l".

LALOCHEZIA, n. Talking dirty to relieve tension (BYRN).

LAMBITIVE, n. A medicine to be licked, such as a cough drop.

LECTUAL, adj. Confining to the bed, as in "a lectual disease."

LEGORASTIA, n. The condition of being sexually aroused by watching a woman's lips in the motion of speech (LECH).

LEMNISCATE, n. Something having the shape of a figure eight.

LENOCINIUM, n. Connivance at one's wife's adultery (CHAM).

LEVIRATE, n. A custom among the ancient Hebrews, according to which the brother of a man who died leaving a widow but no children was obliged to marry the widow. Note that "levirate" is a transposal of "relative."

LISSOTRICHIOUS, adj. Having straight hair.

LOGOMACHY, n. Contention merely in words; a war of words.

LOROERIGESIS, n. The sexually stimulating effect of the sight of a brassiere shoulder strap (LECH).

- LUCUBRATE, v.i. To work by artificial light; hence, "to burn the midnight oil."
- LULLILOO, v.i. & t. To shout joyously; to welcome with cries of joy.
- MACHICOLATION, n. An opening in the floor of a gallery through which boiling oil may be poured on assailants attacking from below.
- MAGEIRIA, n. A form of sublimation in which sexual cravings are expressed by preoccupation with cooking (LECH).
- MALLEMAROKING, n. A carouse of sailors of icebound whalers on one of the ships.
- MANZIL, n. The distance between two successive stopping places.
- MARABOU, n. One having five-eighths negro blood.
- MASTIGOPHORIC, adj. Carrying a whip.
- MAW-WALLOP, n. A badly cooked mess of food (POP).
- MEDECTOPHOBIA, n. Fear of having the contour of one's erect penis visible through one's pants (LECH).
- MELCRYPTOVESTIMENTAPHILIA, n. A fondness for women's black undergarments (LECH).
- MERKIN, n. False female pubic hair.
- MICROLIPET, n. Someone bothered by trifles (BYRN).
- MINIMIFIDIANISM, n. The state of having the least possible faith.
- MISOCAPNIST, n. A hater of tobacco smoke.
- MITHRIDATISM, n. Immunity to poison achieved by taking gradually increasing doses.
- MORTLING, n. Wool taken from a dead sheep.
- MULLEROSE, adj. Excessively fond of women.
- MYTACISM, n. Using the letter "m" incorrectly, or to an extreme.
- MYTHOMETER, n. A measure for judging myths.
- NAPRAPATHY, n. The manipulation of strained ligaments in the belief that they cause disease.
- NAUFRAGOUS, adj. Causing shipwrecks.
- NEVERMASS, n. A day that never was and never will be.
- NILOMETER, n. An instrument for measuring the height of the Nile, especially during its flood.
- NIXIE, n. A piece of mail that is undeliverable because it is incorrectly or illegibly addressed.
- NOCTUARY, n. A diary of nighttime activities.
- NOSARIAN, n. One who argues that there is no limit to the possible largeness of a nose.
- NOVANTIQUE, adj. New but yet old.
- NOVERCAL, adj. Pertaining to, or like, a stepmother.
- NOYADE, n. A drowning of many persons at once.
- NUTARIAN, n. A girl or woman whose breasts bob up and down as she walks (LECH).
- OIKONISUS, n. The urge to start a family (BYRN).
- OMPHALOSKEPSIS, n. Meditation while gazing at one's navel.
- OPISTHENAR, n. The back of the hand.
- OSCULODUCE, n. Of two persons in the act of kissing, the one who does the kissing as opposed to being kissed (LECH).
- OUCH, n. A setting for a precious stone.

- PAGOPHAGIA, n. Eating a tray of ice daily for two months to help offset iron deficiency (BYRN).
- PALILALIA, n. Helplessly repeating a phrase faster and faster (NI3).
- PALIMPSEST, n. Writing material, such as a parchment or tablet, used one or more times after earlier writing has been erased.
- PALINODE, n. An ode or song recanting or retracting something in a former one.
- PANEITY, n. The quality of being bread.
- PARNEL, n. A priest's mistress.
- PAVONINE, adj. Pertaining to the peacock.
- PERIPLUS, n. A voyage or trip around, as an island or a coast; a circuit; for example, to make a periplus of Malta.
- PHATIC, adj. Pertaining to conversation that is meant to express friendship or sociability rather than to convey information (NI3).
- PHERBASIA, n. A kiss which is endured without manifest opposition but which elicits no response (LECH).
- PHILEMATOLOGY, n. The "science" of kissing.
- PHILOTHEOPAROPTESISM, n. The process of slowly cooking those who have suffered the church's displeasure (GRAN).
- PHILTRUM, n. The slight indentation running vertically between the nose and the upper lip.
- PICA, n. A craving for unnatural food, such as chalk, ashes, coal, etc.
- PINGUINITESCENT, adj. Greasy in luster; said of hair.
- PINTLE, n. The vertical post that runs through the two halves of most door hinges.
- PLAGOSE, adj. Fond of flogging.
- POGONIASIS, n. Growth of a beard on a woman.
- POLIAD, n. A city nymph.
- POLTOPHAGY, n. Thorough chewing of food until it becomes like porridge.
- POPLITEAL, adj. Pertaining to the back part of the leg behind the knee.
- POSTPRANDIAL, adj. After-dinner; following a banquet, for example postprandial speeches.
- PRELAPSARIAN, adj. Characteristic of, or pertaining to, the time before the fall of man.
- PRIDIAN, adj. Of or pertaining to the day before, or yesterday.
- PSEUDOMACROPHALLIA, n. The condition of having a penis which appears large in the flaccid state but does not increase much in size when erected (LECH).
- PSITTACISTIC, adj. Speaking in a mechanical, repetitive, and meaningless way.
- PSYCHOPOMP, n. A conductor or guide of souls to the afterworld.
- PUNALUAN, adj. Pertaining to a group marriage in which a number of sisters marry a number of brothers.
- PURLICUE, n. The space between the thumb and forefinger extended.
- PUTTI, n.pl. Figures of nude, Cupidlike children much used in decorative painting and sculpture.
- QUALTAGH, n. The first person one sees on going out from home on a particular day.
- QUATRAYLE, n. A great-great-great-grandfather.

- QUAVERYMAVERY, adj. Hesitating; uncertain.
- QUIDNUNC, n. One who seeks all the latest news or gossip.
- QUINCUNX, n. An arrangement of five things so that one is in each corner and in the middle of a square. This arrangement is used for the fives on a pair of a dice.
- QUISQUILIOUS, adj. Made of rubbish.
- QUOMODOCUNQUIZE, v.i. To make money in any possible way (OED).
- RAMPICK, adj. Dead at the top; said of trees.
- RANDLE, n. A nonsensical poem recited by Irish schoolboys as an apology for farting at a friend (BYRN).
- REPUBLICAN MARRIAGE, n. A method of execution consisting of binding a man and a woman together and throwing them into the Loire.
- RETROMINGENT, adj. Urinating backwards. The male cat is a retromingent animal.
- RHEONONIA, n. A form of masturbation practiced by women in which a stream of water is directed upon the exposed genitalia (LECH).
- RIPARIAN, n. One who lives on the bank of a river.
- RUELLE, n. The space between a bed and the wall.
- RUMBELOW, n. A combination of meaningless syllables, such as the "yo-ho-ho's" of rowing sailors.
- SANNUP, n. A married male Indian, analogous to "squaw."
- SAVSSAT, n. In arctic regions, a throng of animals crowded around a hole in the ice.
- SCHAAPSTEKER, n. A spotted African snake, of gentle disposition, unable to poison sheep.
- SCHADENFREUDE, n. Enjoyment of others' misfortunes.
- SCHOENBATIST, n. A tightrope walker.
- SEDGELY CURSE, n. An old imprecation, usually recorded as "May the fiend ride through him booted and spurred, with a scythe at his back."
- SEREIN, n. A very fine rain which sometimes falls from a clear sky a few minutes after sunset.
- SESQUIPEDALIAN, adj. A foot and a half long. Sometimes used to refer to long words.
- SHAPOMETER, n. A device for measuring the shapes of pebbles.
- SHOOD, n. Rice husks or similar refuse, used in adultering linseed cake.
- SHREWSTRUCK, adj. Struck by a shrew (the animal).
- SLAISTERY, n. Work of a sloppy or dirty nature.
- SLIBBERSAUCE, n. A sloppy or nauseating preparation used as food, medicine, or a cosmetic.
- SOOTERKIN, n. An afterbirth, supposedly produced by Dutch women from sitting over their stoves.
- SPRAINTS, n. Otter dung.
- STASIVALENT, adj. Incapable of having sexual intercourse in any but the standing position (LECH).
- STENOVESTIA, n. The practice of wearing tight-fitting clothes, especially sweaters or skirts.
- STIRIOUS, adj. Of the nature of, or resembling, an icicle (OED).
- SUCCUBUS, n. A demon assuming female form in order to have sexual intercourse with men in their sleep.

- SUINT, n. The dried perspiration of sheep.
- SUOVETAURILIA, n. In art, a representation of a boar, a ram, and a bull together.
- SUPELLECTILE, adj. Pertaining to furniture.
- SUPERMUSCAN, adj. Above the power of a fly.
- SUPERNACULUM, adv. To the last drop; used chiefly in the phrase "to drink supernaculum."
- SWALCAKWS, phr. The acronymic response to SWAK: Sealed With A Lick 'Cause A Kiss Wouldn't Stick (SLAN).
- SYNEUNIA, n. The practice of sleeping together in one bed, as applied to a husband and wife (LECH).
- SYRTIC, adj. Of or pertaining to the nature of quicksand.
- SYZYG, n. The configuration when three celestial bodies form a straight line, as the sun, moon, and earth during solar eclipse.
- TACENDA, n. Things to be passed over in silence; matters that should not be mentioned (OED).
- TALARIA, n.pl. Winged shoes fastened to the ankles, chiefly used as an attribute of Hermes or Mercury.
- TARANTISM, n. A nervous affliction characterized by melancholy, stupor, and an uncontrollable desire to dance. It is popularly supposed to be caused by the bite of a tarantula, and to be cured only by protracted dancing to appropriate music (i.e., the tarantella).
- TARASSIS, n. Hysteria in males.
- TEKNONYMY, n. The custom of certain races of naming the parent from the child.
- THELETAGE, n. Sexual excitation brought about by playful manipulation of the nipples (LECH).
- THIXOTROPIC, adj. Having the property of becoming thinner when stirred. Mayonnaise and paint are thixotropic.
- TITIVIL, n. A devil who collects fragments of words dropped, mumbled, or skipped in the recitation of a service, and carries them to hell, to be registered against the offender (OED).
- TRAVALE, n. The sound produced by rubbing a wetted thumb across a tambourine.
- TRIBADISM, n. The rubbing together, by two women, of their vulval areas, for mutual sexual satisfaction (NI3).
- TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA, n. Fear of the number thirteen (NI3).
- TYROSEMIOPHILY, n. The collecting of Camembert cheese labels (WORD).
- UAYEB, n. In the Mayan calendar, the five supplementary days added to the end of each year to complete 365 days.
- UCALEGON, n. A neighbor whose house is on fire.
- UGHTEN, n. Morning twilight.
- UNDOCTOR, v.t. To make unlike a doctor.
- UTURUNCU, n. A jaguar believed to be a sorcerer who has undergone metamorphosis.
- UXORILocal, adj. Living with one's wife's family (NI3).
- VANARBI, n. A word used to render someone else incapable of having sexual intercourse. The word is always capitalized (WORD).
- VELLEITY, n. The lowest degree of desire; a slight wish; a faint hope.

- WALLABY-PROOF, adj. Impervious to the penetration of kangaroos.
 WALLA-WALLA, n.pl. The unintelligible sound produced by many people talking at once (N13).
 XEROPHILEMATOUS, adj. Preferring short, dry kisses (LECH).
 YEPSEN, n. The two hands placed together so as to form a bowl-shaped cavity; as much as can be held in this (OED).
 YLAHAYLL, interj. Bad luck to you!
 ZOMOTHERAPY, n. Treatment of disease, especially tuberculosis, by means of a diet of raw meat.

SIMILES DICTIONARY

This is the name of a book priced at \$68 by Gale Research Company, containing some 16,000 similes arranged within 500 thematic categories (such as hands, hand movements, fingers, and handshake; laughter, gaiety, grins, smiles, and humor; love, friendship, and love defined). An extensive bibliography and author index is included at the end.

This book will give would-be writers a lot of ideas for lively phraseology. It is also great for browsing, as the following examples suggest. Female breasts resemble

a bald man's head, a peeled orange, water-filled balloons, party balloons, soft purses, armaments, bread loaves hot from the oven, clusters of the vine, dried apples, giant cabbages, overripe squash, billowing pennants in a strong wind, small hard apples, ivory-colored hills, plump gourds, overripe fruit, crescent moons, barrels, long white grapes, prunes, calabashes, creamy milk-fed veal, five-pound flour sacks, and marshmallows

More specifically, nipples resemble

Tootsie rolls, poker chips, cookies, peony buds, dark eyes, milk-chocolate discs, buttons, and overgrown M & Ms.

If you wish to describe something as extremely difficult to do, it is like

playing the piano with boxing gloves, finding a good hamburger in Albania, getting a merry-go-round concession on the White House lawn, putting a bandage on an eel, selling a ham to a kosher caterer, sighting a rifle in the dark with rain falling, nailing Jell-O to the wall, taking a sip of water from a fire hose, getting a pearl out of a lockjawed oyster, squeezing a third cup from a tea bag, draining a swimming pool with a soda straw, dragging a cat by its tail over a rug, recovering a contact lens from a subway platform at rush hour, dealing with a porcupine in heat, and taking a hair out of milk